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Minutes of the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts
Held in Washington, D.C., 10 October 1956, 9:30 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in its offices in the Interior Department Building on 10 October 1956 with the following members in attendance:

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
Mrs. William Muir
Mr. Elbert Peets
Mr. Felix de Weldon
Mr. Douglas W. Orr

Mr. L.R. Wilson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by the Chairman.

Minutes of previous meeting

The Chairman stated that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 and 14 September were being prepared and would be mailed to the members at an early date.

Date for next meeting

The date selected for the next meeting was 19 November 1956.

Procedure for processing submissions under Shipstead-Luce and Old Georgetown Acts

The Secretary reported that Commissioner Robert E. McLaughlin had questioned the legality of the action taken on a recent case, O.G. #1562. The Commissioner raised the question whether the action taken by the Board did in fact constitute the action of the Commission of Fine Arts itself, although the reporting documents bore the signature of the Secretary, as has been customary since the Old Georgetown Law was enacted. To avoid future ambiguity, the Secretary suggested that all actions taken on Shipstead-Luce and Old Georgetown submissions, processed between meetings, be reviewed and confirmed at the meeting following the action. The members approved this procedure.

Report on Shipstead-Luce submissions

The Secretary reported the recommendations of the Panel on all Shipstead-Luce submissions for the period from 27 July 1956 to 10 October 1956 and requested confirmation of the action that had been taken:

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts

approve and hereby they do approve, the actions recommended by the Shipstead-Luce Panel of Architects for the submissions listed on exhibits A and B.

Old Georgetown Report

The Secretary explained that at each meeting of the Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown, all submissions under Public Law 808/81st Congress are listed by serial number, address, name of owner, and project for whichapplication is being made. A written notation is made individually by each member of the Board, of the action taken. Thus, a complete record is kept of all new and pending submissions at each meeting of the Board, and the record is signed each week by each member of the Board. Following the meeting each case is processed in accordance with the action taken and returned to the District under the signature of the Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts. Since the last meeting of the Commission, 33 applications have been passed upon by the Board. Disapproval was registered on 2 cases.

Mr. Louis Simon, Chairman of the Board of Architectural Consultants, attended the meeting to discuss with the members the two cases which were disapproved and which raised controversial questions. In the case of OG 1562, an application to build a large parking garage in the center of the Square #1197 at 1058-76 Thirtieth Street, by the Golden Commissary Corporation, the design was disapproved because, after careful study, the Board did not believe that the architectural features, height, appearance, color and texture of the materials would produce a building that would meet with the intent of the law. A letter was sent to the District of Columbia Commissioners setting forth these views. (Exhibit C). At the written request of the Board of Commissioners for the District of Columbia (Exhibit D), the members of the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the recommendations made by the Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown and voted to support the action of the Board of Architectural Consultants. (Exhibit E).

Mr. Simon also explained the negative action taken on OG 1627, an application for administrative approval of an unauthorized change that had already been completed. It involved the use of a divided window, a design feA ture which the Board has consistently viewed with disfavor. The Board also objected to the principle involved, in being requested to give approval to work that has already been accomplished. The disapproving action of the Board was confirmed by the Commission. In thanking Mr. Simon for coming to the meeting, the Chairman expressed the Commission's gratitude for the faithful attendance and conscientious study the Board members devoted to the work of the Old Georgetown applications.

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby they do approve, the action of the Board of Consultants for Old Georgetown in their approval of the 31 submissions and their disapproval of 2 submissions, namely O.G. 1562 to build a parking garage at 1058-76 30th Street, and O.G. 1627, involving the use of a double window in a dwelling at 1525 35th Street, N. W.

The Chairman read to the members a letter from Mr. Franklin G. Floete, Administrator of General Services, thanking the Commission on its work in connection with the design for the State Department Annex. Exhibit F

The Chairman also read to the members a letter which had been written to Mr. Franklin G. Floete, Administrator of General Services, regarding the decorative features of the Department of State Annex. (Exhibit G). The Commission expressed the hope that the funds allocated for sculpture and painting to decorate the new building, could be increased as the sum stated namely, $200,000, was, in the opinion of the members of the Commission, inadequate.

Mrs. Muir again brought up the question of the selection of Mr. Marshall Fredericks, sculptor, to plan the decorative program for the Department of State Annex. Mr. Orr pointed out that the officials of the Department of State no doubt had in mind the kind of decoration desired for the new building, and that the Commission of Fine Arts, in approving the selection of a sculptor to set up the program for the decoration, would be obliged to consider the Department's viewpoint. Mr. Orr stated also that it was his understanding from the architects that Mr. Fredericks would submit a plan for the decorative features which would be brought before the Commission. The consensus of opinion was that it was very difficult to make a decision in advance, and that action should not be taken until the members have had an opportunity to see what Mr. Fredericks recommends.

General Services Administration - construction projects outside of Washington, D. C.

The Chairman told the members of a press release issued by General Services Administration listing construction of post offices and Federal public buildings in a number of cities throughout the country. The total expenditure of this program was given as $700,000,000. The Chairman stated that, if the members so desired, he would write Mr. Floete, the Administrator of General Services, and suggest that if they will submit the designs for these buildings to the Commission, the members will be glad to give their advice. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that there would be many problems connected

with such an undertaking, and that normally the designs for these buildings would not be submitted to the Commission. It was Mr. Orr's opinion that the work would be done largely by local architects or someone at least nearer the area than the Commission would be. Mr. Orr pointed out that if a design were to be disapproved by the Commission, it would be difficult to call in the architect from a long distance for consultation. Mrs. Muir suggested that a Board of Consulting Architects be appointed to pass on such designs, but it was believed that this would not be feasible, because the Commission would also have to approve the Board's work and it would be better to leave the outside projects to the General Services Administration and the architects employed by that agency.

Orientation-items in the Order of Business

The Secretary very briefly explained to the members that some items on the Order of Business, such as the District of Columbia Highway Department, had been cancelled at the last minute. In order to conserve time it was necessary to rearrange some of the discussion items.

Executive Order - status

The Chairman reported that after consulting Governor Sherman Adams about the Executive Order, he had personally taken the draft which the members had prepared to Honorable Fercival Brundage, Director of the Budget. Mr. Finley said that he had a satisfactory discussion with Mr. Brundage and with Mr. Broadbent, also of the Budget Bureau, and believed that the Executive Order would receive their sympathetic attention.

Site of Memorial to General John J. Pershing

Although the subject of the Memorial to General John J. Pershing was not on the Order of Business, Mr. Orr asked if there might be some discussion of the site. He stated that he had had a letter from Mr. John F. Harbeson, architect, inquiring whether a decision could be made by the Commission of Fine Arts soon about the use of the site at Fourteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The Chairman stated that the principal rival for the use of the site was the National Park Service, Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director, which would like to use the site for the erection of a building to be used as a Visitors' Reception and Information Center. Mr. Orr said that he believed that if the use of the site could be cleared with the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Park Service, that the American Battle Monuments Commission was of a mind to proceed with the design of a fountain which would be in line with the thinking of the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Orr also stated that the Commission should not lose such a good opportunity to get a fountain there now that Mr. Harbeson had succeeded in getting the approval of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The members generally favored accepting the development of the site, but no further action was taken at this time.

Shipstead-Luce submission (informal)
National Headquarters Building of Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union, 16th and K Streets, Northwest. (Mr. Wm. Holabird, of Holabird, Root and Burgee)

The Secretary reported that the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union wished to erect a National Headquarters Building at 16th and K Streets, and that the architectural firm of Holabird, Root & Burgee, had drawn the plans for the building. The Board of Zoning Adjustment, in its notice of a public hearing on the subject, made the issuance of a permit conditional on the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts although not technically within the Commission's jurisdiction. It was noted in this connection that other office buildings, such as the National Education Association Building, were now under construction on Sixteenth Street and they had not been submitted to the Commission for comment. It was the opinion of the members that the erection of high office buildings has destroyed the character of lower Sixteenth Street and if the Commission were to comment on the drawings for this building it would imply the Commission's sanction of a pattern for an area that should be exempted from this type of use.

At this point, Mr. Holabird was invited to come in and explain the problem. He stated that the Board of Zoning Adjustment had approved the erection of an office building on this site to be used commercially but with no signs, canopies, or projections on Sixteenth Street, subject to the final plans being approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Commission of Fine Arts. The Chairman assured Mr. Holabird that this condition was imposed by the Zoning Board and had not been requested by the Commission. Mr. Holabird said that he had tried in every way to cooperate with the requests of the Board of Zoning Adjustment by making changes in the plans and material to be used. After a long and serious discussion of the problem, Mr. Orr moved that a letter (Exhibit H) be written to the Board of Zoning Adjustment stating that, in the opinion of the Commission, the appearance of Sixteenth Street should not be destroyed by constant waivers to permit commercial buildings that should be maintained as a non-commercial street; further, that the Commission did not, for this reason, wish to comment on the design of the building submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Muir and unanimously carried.

Freer Gallery of Art

In accordance with the usual custom, the Commission visited the Free Gallery of Art, where the Director, Mr. Wenley, displayed a number of works of oriental art proposed for purchase. The Commission was pleased to inspect the objects and approved them for purchase. Exhibit I.

Department of the Army-Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. Mr. Thomas H. Jones sculptor, and Lt. Col. James S. Cook, jr.. Chief Heraldic Branch

The Secretary introduced Col. Cooke and Mr. Jones who wished to present, for the consideration of the Commission, a plaster model of the Department of the Army's Distinguished Civilian Service Medal. Mr. Jones explained that the medal was to be given to people not in the government service who had helped the Department of the army in some outstanding manner. The face of the medal showed a triangle represent= ing the civilian in symbolism with the eagle and shield and the laurel wreath around the lower half of the medal. The reverse side carries the wording "Awarded to _____For Distinguished Civiliam Service to the United States Army" and the date of presentation, and the laurel wreath as on the face of the medal. Colonel Cooke stated that it was his understanding the medal was to be given for service prior to the date of the conclusion of World War II.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby it does approve, the model of the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, to be awarded by the Department of the Army to those non-civil service civilians who have been of service to the United States Army.

General William Mitchell statue-revised lettering for base. (Mr. Paul E. Garber, Head Curator, National Air Museum; Mr. Thomas M Beggs, Director, National Collection of Fine Arts Smithsonian Institution)

The Chairman reported that in accordance with the request of the Commission at its meeting on 13 and 14 September 1956, Mr. Garber and Mr. Beggs were ready to present the revised drawings for the statue of General William Mitchell, showing the rearrangement of the lettering on the base. Mr. Garber stated that Mr. Bruce Moore, the sculptor, would prefer to keep the stars and wings because they provide a deco- rative symbolism that, to him, seems important. Mr. Garber also stated that Mr. Moore was rather proud of this work. After discussion it was decided that Mr. Garber would present the full sized lettering at the next meeting of the Commission on 19 November 1956.

National Capital Planning Commission
Land Acquisition, George Washington Memorial Parkway

The Secretary reported that, since the new building for the Central Intelligence Agency is to be erected in Langley, Virginia, there is now enough interest being aroused to complete the George Washington

Memorial Parkway, and the National Capital Planning Commission is proposing to buy the remainder of the land along the river on the west side as far as Great Falls. The Secretary stated that this was being presented to the Commission for approval to purchase the land for the purpose stated.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby it does approve, the National Capital Planning Commission buying the land along the Potomac River on the West side as far as Great Falls for the purpose of completing the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

District of Columbia Government -Brig. Gen. Thomas Lane, Engr.Commr.

(a) General Lane and the members of the Commission had a lengthy discussion of the problems involved in the change-over from the present lighting standards to the highway-type of standards which the District is now installing. The Commission again expressed the view that the highway-type of standard is not suitable for use in the Nation's Capital, especially in monumental areas. The members expressed to General Lane the hope that a more suitable design could be obtained and the same used throughout the city. Exhibit J.

(b)Status of Constitution Avenue Bridge

The Chairman asked General Lane about the status of the Constitution Avenue Bridge. General Lane stated that the District of Columbia Commissioners expected to reintroduce legislation in the next Congress, and said that he hoped the question of the moveable span could be cleared up before Congress convenes. General Lane also said that the Commissioners had asked the District Engineer to hear complaints of those who claim they were not heard at the last public hearing in order to determine whether their testimony would make any difference in his recommendation on fixed span. If an additional public hearing is warranted the Commissioners have no objection to holding one.

(c) Inner Loop traffic

Mr. Orr asked General Lane what funds would be available for the bridge and the inner belt loop, and said that it was his understanding that under the new Federal Aid Highway Act, the bridge and the inner loop belt would be all-purpose trafficways which meant that trucks would use the bridge and the roadways around the Lincoln Memorial which would be disastrous to the Mall and Lincoln Memorial area. General Lane replied that the Constitution Avenue Bridge and the inner loop would be for all-purpose unrestricted taffic. Mr. Orr then reminded the General that when the President signed the bill approving the bridge, hestated that it was not to be used for truck traffic. The General said that he did not know that statement had been made by the President but

that it was general knowledge that this was to be an unlimited traffic bridge, although Memorial Bridge would still be a limited traffic bridge. General Lane stated further that he would like to correct a misunderstanding which he believed existed. He said there was no intent to put heavy trucks on the inner loop between 14th Street and the Lincoln Memorial. The interstate highway system immediately after crossing 14th Street bridge goes off to the east, so that the loop to the Lincoln Memorial and the parkway would remain as at present, limited to pleasure vehicles. The new Constitution Avenue Bridge, designed for unrestricted traffic, would connect with highways to the north and west through the loop going north, but trucks would not have freedom to come back towards the Lincoln Memorial. In other words, the inner loop will be for unrestricted traffic except on the link from 14th street to the Constitution Avenue Bridge. General Lane explained that there is no interstate highway which connects the area between 14th Street and Memorial Bridge. The Chairman asked if there would be any possibility of heavy trucks going around the Lincoln Memorial, and the General replied that there was no plan for such a procedure.

(d) O.G.#1562-Storage Garage to be built by Golden Commissary Corp.

The Chairman asked General Lane if he was familiar with the above mentioned case, and the General replied that he was. The Chairman told General Lane that it was not the intention of the Commission to oppose the garage because the members realize that the zoning laws permit the construction of the garage, but the Commission does have an interest in the exterior appearance of the building. It was the opinion of General Lane that the zoning law and the Old Georgetown Act, which imposes certain limitations on construction in Georgetown, should be interpreted concurrently. He also stated that he thought that if the Commission believed that a limit on height should be imposed, the Commission was free to make recommendations, but he did not believe that it was within the jurisdiction of the Commission to say that the building could notbe used for a garage. He asked the Commission for constructive advice which could be used to require the applicant to conform to required standards. The Chairman thanked the General for coming and told him that a more detailed letter would be sent to the District Officials regarding the construction of the storage garage.

Discussion of:

(a) Congressman Frank Thompson's Request for Information

The Chairman told the members of a request which had been received from the Honorable Frank Thompson, jr., Congressman from New Jersey, for information concerning the functions of the Commission going back over a period of years. Reports covering the activities of the Commission were assembled and promptly sent to Congressman Thompson. Exhibit K.

(b) Congressman Frank Thompson's draft legislation to increase the duties of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Chairman stated that the draft legislation was quite lengthy and he felt that Mr. Thompson did not understand what the duties and

responsibilities of the Commission were. Mrs. Muir stated that she had expressed her ideas in a letter to Mr. Wilson (exhibit L) which she would like to read. There was general discussion of the points brought out in the legislation, and the members agreed that the Chairman should send a letter to Congressman Thompson setting forth the views of the Commission. Exhibit M.

(c) The Commission of Fine Arts Report in 1953.

The recommendations which the Commission of Fine Arts made in its 1953 Report on "Art and Government", were discussed at length, and it was decided that the Chairman would write to Mr. Thompson pointing out these recommendations and tell him that the Commission hoped to see them implemented. Exhibit M.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Shipstead-Luce Submissions (formal)

a. SL 1879 1329 E Street, NW- One single-faced sign for Munsey Trust Company

b. SL 1891 5724 Oregon Ave., NW- 2-story masonry dwelling

c. SL 1892 5728 Oregon Ave., NW- 2-story brick dwelling

d. SL 1901 5720 Oregon Ave., NW- One 2-story, brick and cinder block dwelling

e. SL 1907 1639 No. Portal Dr., NW- 1 brick and cinder block, 1-story dwelling

f. SL 1908 527 15th St. NW- 1 single-faced, 24 sq-ft sign.

g. SL 1909 527 15th St. NW- Replace revolving door at F St. entrance with swinging glass doors

h. SL 1910 400 6th St. NW- 2 single-faced, temporary signs for leasing vacant bldg., 5'x10' each

i. SL 1911 1411 Penn. Ave. NW.-Bird proof Occidental Hotel

j. SL 1912 715 4th St., NW.-2-story Office & Film Exchange Bldg.

Exhibit A

Chipotesu-Love Shorthair (cont'd)

a. St 1270 [illegible] Mk- [illegible] [illegible]

b. St 1291 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

c. St 1302 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

d. St 1901 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

e. St 1707 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

f. St 1906 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

g. St 1906 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

h. St 1910 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

i. St [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

j. St 1912 [illegible] Mk- [illegible]

Shipstead-Luce Report on cases acted on in the interim between the meeting held on 13-14 September 1956 and the meeting of 10 October 1956

SL 1880 600 No. Capitol St.,--1 double-faced, 24 sq-ft sign for parking lot; submitted 19 July 1956; Approved. 27 July 1956.

SL 1881 1732 F St.,NW-1 single-faced, 18 sq-ft sign for parking lot; submitted 19 July 1956; Approved 27 July 1956.

SL 1882 605 15th St., NW-1 canvas awning; submitted 30 July 1956; Approved, provided black stripes be omitted on awning, 6 August 1956.

SL 1883 200 Indiana Ave., N.W.-1 double-faced, 30 sq-ft sign for Gas Station; submitted 30 July 1956; approved, 9 August 1956.

SL 1884 227 4th St., SW-1 single-faced, 24 sq-ft sign (in place) for Parking Lot; submitted 30 July 1956; Disapproved. 3 signs have already been erected without permit on this parking lot. 1 24-sq-ft sign has been approved for 211-225 (rear 221) 4th St., SW--(SL 1885), 31 August 1956

SL 1885 211-225 (rear 221) 4th St., SW - 2 single-faced, 24 sq-ft signs (in place); submitted 30 July 1956; approved for one sign only, 31 August 1956.

SL 1886 4155 Linnean Ave., NW- addition to greenhouse; submitted 2 August 1956; approved, 6 August 1956.

SL 1887 601½ 4th St., NW-apply stucco to front of bldg. over 3.4 metal lathe; submitted 2 August 1956; approved 9 August 1956.

SL 1888 1605 No. Portal Dr. NW-1½ story brick and frame dwelling; submitted: 16 August 1956; approved 24 August 1956.

SL 1889 4401 Colorado Ave. NW-2-story brick and cinder block dwelling; submitted 16 August 1956; approved 24 August 1956.

SL 1890 5720 Oregon Ave., NW-1½ story, brick and cinder block dwelling; submitted 17 August 1956; disapproved, elevation drawings are not adequate for review, 30 August 1956.

SL 1895 1011 D St. NW-1 single-faced, 24 sq-ft neon sign for Waffle Shop; submitted 22 August 1956; disapproved. Sign exceeds 25 sq-ft. Recommend block lettering, all letters same height without projection through sign base 30 August 1956

SL 1896 3031 Beech St., NW-1-story, masonry and frame dwelling; submitted 22 August 1956; approved 24 August 1956.

Exhibit B

Shipstead-Ince Council or cases acted on in the interim between the meeting held on 13-14 September 1956 and the evening of 10 October 1956

SL 1880 [illegible] No. Updated St.--1 double-faced, 24 sq-ft sign for parking lot; submitted 19 July 1956; Approved. 27 July 1956.

SL 1881 1752 P St., NW-1 single-faced, 16 sq-ft sign for parking lot; submitted 19 July 1956; Approved 27 July 1956.

SL 1882 601 15th St., NW-1 canvas awning; submitted 30 July 1956; Approved. Provided flame shrinks be painted on awning. 6 August 1956.

SL 1883 200 Indiana Ave., NW-1 double-faced, 30 sq-ft sign for Gas Station; submitted 30 July 1956; approved. 3 August 1956.

SL 1884 [illegible] 4th St., SW-1 single-faced, 24 sq-ft sign (in plaza) for Parking Lot; submitted 30 July 1956; Disapproved. 3 signs have already been erected within permit on this parking lot. 1 24-sq-ft sign has been approved for 211-225 (even 221) 4th St., SW- (SL 1849). 31 August 1956

SL 1885 211-225 (even 221) 4th St., SW - 2 single-faced, 24 sq-ft signs (in plaza); submitted 30 July 1956; approved for one sign only. 31 August 1956.

SL 1886 4155 Lindsay Ave., NW- addition to greenhouse; submitted 2 August 1956; approved 6 August 1956.

SL 1887 [illegible] 4th St., NW-apply stucco to front of bldg. over 3/4 canal line; submitted 7 August 1956; approved 9 August 1956.

SL 1888 1505 No. Tyndal Dr., NW-1½ story brick and frame dwelling; submitted: 16 August 1956; approved 21 August 1956.

SL 1889 4401 Colorado Ave., NW-2-story brick and cinder block dwelling; submitted 16 August 1956; approved 24 August 1956.

SL 1890 [illegible] Oregon Ave., NW-1 story brick and cinder block addition; submitted 17 August 1956; disapproved. Elevation drawings are not adequate for review, 30 August 1956.

SL 1895 1011 D St., NW-1 single-face, 24 sq-ft neon sign for Waffle Shop; submitted 21 August 1956; disapproved. Sign exceeds 25 sq-ft. Recommend block lettering, all letters same height without projection through sign base 30 August 1956

SL 1896 2021 Reed St., NW-1-story masonry and frame dwelling; submitted 22 August 1956; approved 24 August 1956.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 August 1956

Mr. Cabell Gwathmey,
Director of Licenses and Inspections
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gwathmey:

After most careful consideration, the members of the Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown have reached the conclusion that, within the framework of limitations imposed by Public Law 808, 81st Congress, they cannot recommend approval of the application for a building permit to erect the storage garage on lots 839, 840, 854, in square 1197, as indicated on the plans accompanying O. G. 1562. They believe that the architectural features, height, appearance, color and texture of the materials, are at variance with the intent of the law, and with the standards of judgment imposed by its references.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Exhibit C

Exhibit C

Government of the District of Columbia
Executive Office
Washington 4, D.C.

October 2, 1956

Mr. R.L.Wilson, Secretary
The Commission of Fine Arts
7000 Interior Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Reference is made to your letter of August 7, 1956, addressed to the Director of Licenses and Inspections concerning your file O.G.1562, the application of Golden Commissary Corporation for a building permit to erect a storage garage in square 1197.

The Board of Commissioners has directed me to advise the Commission of Fine Arts of the Commissioners' conclusion that the Old Georgetown Act did not supercede or repeal the Zoning Act in force in the District of Columbia insofar as that Act, and regulations made pursuant thereto, prescribe the uses that may be made of properties located in the respective zones of the District of Columbia. In the case of property within the limits of Georgetown, the Old Georgetown Act authorized limitations respecting exterior architectural features, height, appearance, color, and texture of materials of exterior construction, not applicable in other areas of the District of Columbia.

In the light of the foregoing, the adverse report of the Commission of Fine Arts on application of the Golden Commissary for permit to construct a storage garage set forth in your letter of August 7, 1956, does not contain information essential for disposition by the Commissioners of an application otherwise complying with the requirements of the zoning laws and the District of Columbia Building Code for utilization of property zoned "Second Commercial 60'D" in Old Georgetown.

The Commissioners desire to receive a report from the Commission of Fine Arts setting forth its recommendations on changes, if any, which should be made in the plans submitted by Golden Commissary for a storage garage to bring them into compliance with the provisions of the Old Georgetown Act, Public Law 808, 81st Congress.

A reply from the Commission by October 12, 1956, would be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

/s/ G.M. Thornett
Secretary

Exhibit D

Government of the District of Columbia
Executive Office
Washington 4, D.C.

October 7, 1958

Mr. T.L.Wilson, Secretary
The Commission of Fine Arts
7000 Interior Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Reference is made to your letter of August 1, 1958, addressed to the Director of Licenses and I. Spertions concerning your file O.C.1552, the application of Golden Commissary Corporation for a building permit to erect a storage garage in square 1107.

The Board of Commissioners has directed me to advise the Commission of Fine Arts of the Commissioners' conclusion that the Old Georgetown Act did not supercede or repeal the Zoning Act in force in the District of Columbia insofar as that Act, and regulations made pursuant thereto, prescribe the uses that may be made of properties located in the respective zones of the District of Columbia. In this case of property within the limits of Georgetown the Old Georgetown Act authorized limitations respecting exterior architectural features being inconsistent color and texture of materials of exterior construction not applicable in other areas of the District of Columbia.

In the light of the foregoing the adverse report of the Commission of Fine Arts on application of the Golden Commissary for permit to construct a storage garage set forth in your letter of August 1, 1958, does not contain information essential for disposition by the Commissioners of an application otherwise complying with the requirements of the zoning laws and the District of Columbia Building Code for modification of properly zoned "Second Home Trial Court" in Old Georgetown.

The Commissioners desire to receive a report from the Commission of Fine Arts setting forth its recommendations on changes, if any, which should be made in the plans submitted by Golden Commissary for a garage to permit their full compliance with the provisions of the Old Georgetown Act. Public Law 808 - 81st Congress.

A ready view the Commission by October 17, 1958, would be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

By C.W. Thomsen
Secretary

Exhibit C

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11 October 1956

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

In accordance with your request of 2 October 1956, the Commission of Fine Arts, at a meeting on 10 October 1956, reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Architectural Consultants of Georgetown on O.G. 1562, the application of the Golden Commissary Corporation for a building permit to erect a storage garage in square 1197. The Commission recognizes that under existing zoning law, a storage garage can be erected on the site mentioned. The members of the Commission of Fine Arts, however, support the opinion of the Board of Architectural Consultants that a building erected from the drawings submitted will present an appearance that is incompatible with the criteria, as to design and materials, imposed by Public Law 808/81st Congress.

If the applicant desires to submit a restudy of the architectural design of this building, with attention to the fenestration and to scale using building materials customarily employed during the period covered by the Act, we shall be glad to consider the drawings and to give a prompt decision in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Robert E. McLaughlin
President
Board of Commissioners
District of Columbia
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit E

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11 October 1955

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

In accordance with your request of 2 October 1955, the Commission of Fine Arts, at a meeting on 10 October 1955, reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Architectural Consultants of Georgetown on O.S. 1552, the application of the Golden Commissary Corporation for a building permit to erect a storage garage in square 1197. The Commission recognizes that under existing zoning law, a storage garage can be erected on the site mentioned. The members of the Commission of Fine Arts, however, support the opinion of the Board of Architectural Consultants that a building erected from the drawings submitted will present an appearance that is incompatible with the criteria, as to design and materials, imposed by Public Law 809/81st Congress.

If the applicant desires to submit a restudy of the architectural design of this building, with attention to the foregoing and to apply facing building materials customarily employed during the period covered by the Act, we shall be glad to consider the drawings and to give a prompt decision in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Robert E. McLaughlin
President
Board of Commissioners
District of Columbia
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit E

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

October 5,1956

Honorable David E. Finley
Chairman
Fine Arts Commission
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley;

Thank you for your letter of September 24, approving the elevations for the State Department Extension. We appreciate the unstinted effort the Commission gave to this project, particularly the architectural members of the Commission.

As details of the design of the facades and the decorative features are developed, we will submit them to the Commission for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ F.G.Floete
Administrator

Exhibit F

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

December 1, 1961

Honorable David E. Finley
Chairman
Fine Arts Commission
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, advising me of the elevations for the State Department Extension. We appreciate the unselfish effort the Commission gave to this project, particularly the architectural members of the Commission.

As details of the design of the fascias and the decorative features are developed, we will submit them to the Commission for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible]
Administrator

Exhibit F

5 October 1956

Dear Mr. Floete:

During the course of our discussion of the plans for the proposed State Department annex with your representatives on 13 September 1956, the problem of providing suitable decorative sculpture and painting for the building was raised. We were advised that a sum of approximately $200,000 has been allocated for this purpose, and that Mr. Marshall Fredericks, a sculptor, was being considered to collaborate with the architects in preparing a program for the sculptural adornment of the building.

We believe that $200,000 is inadequate to furnish decorative art for a building of the State Department's importance, especially when the total cost of the building is considered. We hope steps can be taken to increase the funds so that a program can be initiated which will give the State Department an appropriate number of works of art of the best quality that American talent can produce.

The members of the Commission agreed to the suggestion that Mr. Fredericks be authorized to prepare a sculpture program in which the talents of more than one sculptor will be utilized, and they believe that Mr. Fredericks' assistance in preparing the program should not exclude him later from execution of a part of the program, if that is desired. We wish to stress, however, that the size of the building will allow for the employment of artists other than sculptors, and that a comprehensive program should also include works by painters and designers in the crafts.

The determination of such a program is important now while the building is still in a formative stage and constructive ideas that arise may still be incorporated.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Franklin G. Floete
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

cc: Mr. F. Moran McConihe, PBS
Mr. L. L. Hunter, PBS

Exhibit G

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 31,1956

Dear Mr. Coe:

At a meeting on 10 October 1956, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts carefully considered the architectural aspects of the proposal of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union of America to build a national headquarters and office building on the northwest corner of Sixteenth and K Streets, Northwest, on land now zoned partially residential and partially commercial. The opinion which the Zoning Advisory Board rendered on Appeal #4297 dated 21 December 1955 directed that the plans for the office building be referred to the Commission of Fine Arts for architectural comment.

As a result of the study, the members of the Commission asked me to write you that the jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts does not extend to this area, and that they preferred not to comment on the design of this building since it does not come within the jurisdiction of the Commission. They did, however, ask me to write you that we deplore the rapid encroachment of office-type buildings along both sides of Sixteenth Street, a development that has been permitted to change the character of this important street from the intent of the original planners.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Theodore I. Coe, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Exhibit H

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
TWO WOODROW WILSON PLAZA
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 31, 1956

Dear Mr. Doe:

At a meeting on 10 October 1956, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts carefully considered the architectural aspects of the proposal of the Safety and Confectionery Workers International Union of America to build a national headquarters and office building on the northwest corner of Sixteenth and K Streets, Northwest, on land now zoned partially residential and partially commercial. The opinion which the Zoning Advisory Board rendered on Appeal #4257 dated 21 December 1955 directed that the plans for the office building be referred to the Commission of Fine Arts for architectural comment.

As a result of the study, the members of the Commission asked me to write you that the jurisdiction of the Commission of Fine Arts does not extend to this area, and that they would be pleased not to comment on the design of this building since it does not come within the jurisdiction of the Commission. They did, however, ask me to write you that we deplore the rapid encroachment of office-type buildings along both sides of Sixteenth Street. A developer has been permitted to change the character of this important street from the intent of the original planners.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Theodore L. Doe, Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Enclosure

The regents of the Smithsonian Institution, the Commission of Fine Arts, and Miss Katharine N. Rhoades, or Mrs. Eugene Meyer, as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Codicil to the Will of the late Charles L. Freer, have examined the following objects:

1 Bronze vessel, Chinese, yu, Chou dynasty;
1 Bronze plaque, Chinese, Han Dynasty; ordos;
1 Painting, Japanese, scroll; by Shunman; woman and youth in the rain;
3 Paintings, Japanese, Kakemono, by Eishi, 1756-1829; landscapes;
1 Pottery ewer, Chinese, T'ang dynasty; brown glaze, animal-faced spout and handle; broken and repaired;
1 Pottery plate, Japanese, Kutani, 18th-19th century;
1 Silver Bowl, said to be Parthian; design of male bust in the center;

1 Glass mosque lamp, enamelled; Arabic, 14th Century;
1 Chinese painting, landscape; Sung dynasty;
1 Chinese painting; Ch'ing dynasty, attributed to Tao-chi;
1 Pottery dish; Persian, found at Susa, 8th-9th century;
1 wood sculpture, gilded and painted; Japanese, Kamakura period, Bishamonten;

which have been recommended for purchase for the Freer Gallery of Art by Mr. A. G. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

_____
For the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution

_____
For the Commission of Fine Arts

_____

Exhibit I

The Trustees of the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts
Fine Arts Building, Eden Park
Cincinnati, Ohio

Gentlemen:

I have examined the following objects
as proposed for purchase by the Department of the Oriental Art
Charles L. Freer, and find them to be as represented:

1 Bronze vessel, Chinese, Yin, Chou dynasty;
1 Bronze flower, Chinese, Han Period; carved;
1 Painting, Japanese, scroll, by Kanaoka, Fujiwara period in the manner
2 Paintings, Persian, Kakemono, by Riza-i-Abbasi, 17th-century masterpieces;
1 Pottery vase, Chinese, T'ang dynasty, brown glaze, animal-shaped spout
and handle; buff ware and repoussé;
1 Pottery plate, Japanese, Kutani, 18th-19th century;
1 Silver Bowl, said to be Parthian, design of male bust in the center;

1 Glass mosque lamp, enameled; Arabic, 14th century;
1 Chinese painting, in Escapar Sung dynasty;
1 Chinese painting, Ching dynasty, attributed to Tan-chi;
1 Pottery dish, Persian, found at Rhea, 8th-9th century;
1 wood sculpture, gilded and painted Japanese, Fujiwara period,
Kiyomori;

which have been recommended for purchase by the Freer Gallery of Art
by Mr. A. C. Wenley, Director, and they hereby approve the purchase.

For the Trustees of the Cincinnati Institute

For the Commission of Fine Arts

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11 October 1956

Dear General Lane:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were very glad to have an opportunity of talking with you yesterday about the various problems with which we are both concerned. As I said yesterday, the members of the Commission would like very much to work in close co-operation with you and the other District Commissioners in reaching the best solution of problems that arise from time to time affecting the appearance of the City of Washington. I hope you will always feel free to call upon us at any time we can be of assistance.

We are particularly interested, as you know, in the type of lighting fixture that may be selected to replace the light standards now in use in Washington. In the opinion of the Commission, the present standards are both handsome and suitable for the purpose as regards design. We recognize, however, that you may wish to secure greater intensity of lighting and that this may involve a change in the design of the present fixtures. It seems important to the members of the Commission that whatever design may be selected, the lighting fixtures should be uniform throughout the city and of the best design that can be achieved for this purpose. We feel that the highway-type standards, which you are presently introducing, are not adequate for use in the Nation's Capital. We hope, therefore, that you will take steps to secure a design which will meet the criteria we have in mind for this city.

The Commission will be sorry to see a new type of lighting standards substituted for the ones presently in use. They also feel that in view of the large expense, over a period of several years, which will be involved in making such a change, a plan should be made which would justify the expense involved and that such a plan should be submitted and have the approval not only of the District Commissioners but the Commission of Fine Arts and the Congress when appropriations are made for the new lighting standards.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Lane
Engineer Commissioner of
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Exhibit J

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
1800 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

11 October 1956

Dear General Lane:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts were very glad to have an opportunity of talking with you yesterday about the various problems with which we are both concerned. As I said yesterday, the members of the Commission would like very much to work in close cooperation with you and the other District Commissioners in reaching the best solution of problems that arise from time to time affecting the appearance of the City of Washington. I hope you will always feel free to call upon us at any time we can be of assistance.

We are particularly interested, as you know, in the type of lighting fixture that may be selected to replace the light standards now in use in Washington. In the opinion of the Commission the present standards are both handsome and suitable for the purpose as regards design. We recognize, however, that you may plan to secure greater intensity of lighting and that this may involve a change in the design of the present fixtures. It seems important to the members of the Commission that whatever design may be selected, the lighting fixtures should be uniform throughout the city and of the best design that can be achieved for this purpose. We feel that the highway-type standards, which are presently introducing, are not advocated for use in the Nation's Capital. We hope, therefore, that you will take steps to secure a design which will meet the criteria we have in mind for this city.

The Commission will be sorry to see a new type of lighting standards substituted for the ones presently in use. They also feel that in view of the large expense, over a period of several years, which will be involved in making such a change, a plan should be made which would justify the expense involved and that such a plan should be submitted and have the approval not only of the District Commissioners but the Commission of Fine Arts and the Congress when appropriations are made for the new lighting standards.

Sincerely yours,

Gilmore D. Clarke
Chairman

Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Lane
Engineer Commissioner of
the District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 October 1956

My dear Congressman:

I have your letter of September 28th with reference to the draft legislation which you have prepared, providing for additional members of the Commission of Fine Arts. As Mr. Wilson stated, I shall be glad to bring the draft of this legislation to the attention of the Commission for study at our nextmeeting on October 10 and 11.

In your letter you request certain information with reference to members who have served on the Commission from 1938 to date; also a statement of work performed for the Federal Government during the time they were Commission members and any payment received for such work; also a list of artists concerning whose work the Commission has advised the Federal Government from 1938 to date, together with a summary of advice given and to whom.

I am very glad to furnish such information so far as I can. Much of it will be found in the Reports of the Commission, which are submitted periodically to the President for transmittal to the Congress. These Reports are printed by the Government Printing Office. I enclose the Thirteenth Report of the Commission covering the period from January 1, 1935 to December 31, 1939; the Fourteenth Report covering the period from January 1, 1940 to June 30, 1944; the Fifteenth Report covering the period from July 1,1944 to June 30,1948. The draft of the Sixteenth Report covering the period July 1,1948 to June 30,1954 is now being completed and will shortly be submitted to the President for printing. A copy will be sent you as soon as it is available. A complete list of all the members of the Commission since 1910 will be found on pages 94-95 of the Fifteenth Report. The members of the Commission, as you know, are appointed by the President and serve without pay, being reimbursed only for travelling expenses to the meetings of the Commission. You will also find in the various Reports an account of advice given to the Federal Government concerning the qualifications and work of artists submitted to the Commission for consideration. A report covering these matters from June 30,1954 to date will be included in the Commission's next Report. If you have any questions with regard to any specific artists and their work and will let me know, I shall be glad to try to get this information for you.

The Commission has no information regarding any work which may have been performed by members of the Commission, in their professional capacity or by their firms, during the time they were members of the Commission or at any other time. We are not a contracting agency and information regarding the letting and placement of contracts is not kept in the files of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Exhibit K

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 October 1950

My dear Congressman:

I have your letter of September 28th with reference to the draft legislation which you have prepared, providing for additional members of the Commission of Fine Arts. As Mr. Wilson stated, I shall be glad to bring the draft of this legislation to the attention of the Commission for study at our meeting on October 10 and 11.

In your letter you request certain information with reference to members who have served on the Commission from 1938 to date; also a statement of work performed for the Federal Government during the time they were Commission members and any payment received for such work; also a list of artists concerning whose work the Commission has advised the Federal Government from 1938 to date, together with a summary of advice given and to whom.

I am very glad to furnish such information so far as I can. Much of it will be found in the Reports of the Commission, which are submitted periodically to the President for transmittal to the Congress. These Reports are printed by the Government Printing Office. I enclose the Thirteenth Report of the Commission covering the period from January 1, 1935 to December 31, 1939; the Fourteenth Report covering the period from January 1, 1940 to June 30, 1944; the Fifteenth Report covering the period from July 1, 1944 to June 30, 1948. The draft of the Sixteenth Report covering the period July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1954 is now being completed and will shortly be submitted to the President for printing. A copy will be sent you as soon as it is available. A complete list of all the members of the Commission since 1910 will be found on pages 94-95 of the Fifteenth Report. The members of the Commission, as you know, are appointed by the President and serve without pay, being reimbursed only for travelling expenses to the meetings of the Commission. You will also find in the various Reports an account of advice given to the Federal Government concerning the qualifications and work of artists submitted to the Commission for consideration. A report covering these matters from June 30,1939 to date will be included in the Commission's next Report. If you have any questions with regard to any specific artists and their work and will let me know, I shall be glad to try to get this information for you.

The Commission has no information regarding any work which may have been performed by members of the Commission, in their professional capacity or by their firms, during the time they were members of the Commission or at any other time. We are not a contracting agency and information regarding the letting and placement of contracts is not kept in the files of the Commission of Fine Arts.

I hope this gives you the information you wish. I intend to review this matter with the members of the Commission next week, and if there is anything further we can add, I will write you.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Frank Thompson, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Exhibit K

Honorable Frank Thompson, Jr.
3 October 1956

I hope this gives you the information you want. I intend to review this matter with the members of the Commission next week, and if there is anything further we can add, I will write you.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Frank Thompson, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Exhibit 1

September 26,1956

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Re Congressman Thompson's political sound-off, my reaction is just this: If we don't do something constructive, we'll get that- or something worse! Let's do either withdraw from everything not strictly pertaining to the District, and leave the field to the Thompsons and Goodriches or come up with some concrete suggestions to meet the obvious needs which lend weight to their proposals.

What IS the mission of CFA? To advise on the art needs (plastic art) of the Government. Let's GIVE advice then. Why leave it to Congressman Thompson?

What are the art needs of the government REALLY?

1) to get the best and only the best in its acquisitions and plenty of them;

2) to encourage the American public in art education and appreciation to the point where demand will create a real market;

3) to circulate the best in American art abroad, and foreign art in this country for international educational purposes;

We're struggling with item 1 all the time, but we'll never get the results we want unless we can advise on the selection of architects and artists at least to the extent of disapproving a choice we think will not deliver the goods. Nor will we accomplish what we want with insufficient funds.

My membership in the Republican party is based on opposition to more government participation in private fields than is absolutely necessary. An advisory Committee such as has been proposed in so many recent bills before Congress, in whatever department, would be busily making jobs for artists, and squabbling over distribution of same, with innumerable art organizations pounding at the door. I am opposed to this. Note, however that Congressman Thompson's "Jeffersonian" Art Program, in point 3, coincides 100% with our ideas concerning the new building program, which we are either too timid, or too slow to accomplish. To save what we can of the State Department Building, I suggest a letter sent immediately to everyone of importance in the State Department from the Secretary down, to the President, and to every member of Congress we can arrange to contact on any basis whatsoever, regarding the importance of ample sums of money for beautiful

December 15, 1956

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Re Congressman Thompson's political sound-off, my reaction is just this: If we don't do something constructive, we'll get that- or something worse! Let's do either with him every- thing not strictly pertaining to the District, and leave the field to the Thompsons and Goodriches or come up with some concrete suggestions to meet the obvious needs which lend weight to their proposals.

What IS the mission of CFAC? To survive on the art media (theatre art) of the Government. Let's GIVE advice also. Why leave it to Congressman Thompson?

What are the art needs of the government REALLY?

1) to get the best and only the best in its expenditions and plenty of them;

2) to encourage the American public in art education and apprec- iation to the point where demand will create a real market;

3) to circulate the best in American art abroad, and foreign art in this country for international educational purposes;

We're struggling with item 1 all the time, but we'll never get the results we want unless we can advise on the selection of architects and artists at least to the extent of disapproving a choice we think will not deliver the goods. Nor will we accomplish what we want with insufficient funds.

My membership in the Republican party is based on conviction to more government participation in private fields than is absolutely necessary. An advisory Committee such as has been proposed in se- recent bills before Congress - in whatever department, would be useful making jobs for artists, and expediting over distribution of same, with innumerable art organizations pounding at the door. I am opposed to this. Maybe, however that Congressman Thompson's "different" Art Program, in point 3 coincides 100% with our ideas concerning the new building program, which we are either too timid, or too slow to accomplish. To save what we can of the State Department Building, I suggest a letter sent immediately to everyone of importance in the State Department from the Secretary down, to the President, and to every member of Congress we can arrange to contact on any basis whatso- ever, regarding the importance of ample sure of money for beautiful

ENCLOSURE

works of art throughout the building, not only in sculpture and painting, but in glass, tiles, decorative panels, crafts, planting, etc., etc. Let us promptly request an interview with Mr. Frederics, since he has been hired for the job, for the purpose of arriving at some sort of estimate to be submitted to the Congress in the form of the bill we have long been after.

To catch up on the several loose ends which obviously need artistic guidance, I have considered it might be a good thing to appoint a subcommittee to work on the stamp problem, medals, coins, etc; a subcommittee to study the preservation of historic sites and buildings, (Note point 7 of the "Jeffersonian" Program); and a subcommittee to approve plans on Government buildings outside the District including local Post Offices.

Item 2 is the sensible long range approach to the problem of jobs for artists, and in this connection, I would like to see a) CFA recommend an art advisory board to the Bureau of Education to study and assist art education in schools and colleges; b) CFA appoint a subcommittee-temporary or permanent-to study and make recommendations for government encouragement of art at State and local levels particularly, and the possibility of a National Museum of Contemporary Art.

Item 3 certainly seems to require some artistic advice to prevent the stop and go programs which have plagued us in the past decade or more. An advisory board to the State Department seems feasible, which would however include arts other than the plastic. CFA might recommend formation of such a board, with the plastic arts members selected jointly by CFA and the State Department, and reporting to and advising with CFA.

Any such drastic steps would require a real shaking up of CFA, especially in regard to its budget. It is however a better plan, I think, than Thompson's.

I certainly wish the members of CFA would give serious thought to these things, but there's little use asking you to send them copies of this memorandum, as we never seem to get results that way.

Hastily,

/s/ Emily L. Muir

Exhibit L

works of art throughout the building, notably in sculpture and painting, but in glass, tiles, decoration (wood, marble, plaster), planting, etc., etc. Let us promptly request an interview with Mr. Frederics, since he has been hired for the job, for the purpose of arriving at some sort of estimate to be submitted to the Congress in the form of the bill we have long been after.

To catch up on the several loose ends which obviously need artistic guidance, I have pondered it might be a good thing to appoint a subcommittee to work on the stamp problem, medals, coins, etc; a subcommittee to study the preservation of historic sites and buildings, (Note point 7 of the "Reinterpretation" Program); and a subcommittee to approve plans on Government buildings outside the District including local Post Offices.

Item 2 is the sensible long range approach to the problem of jobs for artists, and in this connection, I would like to see a) CFA recommend an art advisory board to the Bureau of Education to study and assist art education in schools and colleges; b) CFA appoint a subcommittee-temporary or permanent-to study and make recommendations for Government encouragement of art at state and local levels particularly, and the possibility of a National Museum of Contemporary Art.

Item 3 certainly seems to require some artistic advice to prevent the stop and go programs which have plagued us in the past decade or more. An advisory board to the State Department seems feasible, which would foresee include arts other than the plastic. CFA might recommend formation of such a board, with the plastic arts members selected jointly by CFA and the State Department, and reporting to and advising with CFA.

Any such drastic steps would require a full clearing up of CFA, especially in regard to its budget. It is time we had a better plan. I think, than "Corpen's".

I certainly wish the members of CFA would give serious thought to these things, but there's little use asking you to send them on bits of this memorandum, as we never seem to get results that way.

Heartily,

/s/ Duncan L. Muir

-2-

6 May 1957

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in reply to your request for the comments of the Commission of Fine Arts on H. R. 2512, 85th Congress, "a bill to amend the Act of May 17, 1910 with respect to the composition and activities of the Commission of Fine Arts."

The proposed amendment would increase the membership from seven to eleven members and would require that such membership include representatives from certain specified arts designated in the text as music, drama, dance, poetry, architecture, landscape architecture, painting, sculpture, the graphic arts, motion pictures, radio, television, literature, and the crafts. After studying the text of the proposed legislation, the members asked me to say that they hoped that this legislation to increase the membership of the Commission for representational purposes would not be favorably considered by your Committee.

During the 47 years the Commission has been in existence, the members have been chosen, not for the purpose of representing a particular profession in the field of art but because they had professional qualifications which would be needed to advise the Federal Government in specific cases that might arise when funds are appropriated for designated purposes, such as the design and decoration of public buildings, monuments, and other structures erected by the Federal Government.

So far as I know, no case involving governmental expenditures for music, drama, ballet, or any of the other performing arts has ever come before the Commission for advice. Such expenditures as the Government makes for music are largely, if not entirely, confined to bands operated by the Armed Forces. The concerts given at the Library of Congress and the National Gallery of Art are financed by funds donated for the purpose or by artists who donate their services. The Commission would be glad to see the Federal Government place greater emphasis on music and ballet, especially in Washington, where private funds for such cultural activities are not adequate for their support on a scale commensurate with the importance of this city as a great world capital.

The Commission made certain recommendations in this respect in its "Report to the President on Art and Government" in 1953. In this report the Commission said:

"The Commission recommends the establishment of a music center in Washington under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. The Commission feels that the Government would be justified in erecting a building in which opera, symphony concerts, and ballet can be performed. Such a building could be erected and maintained by the Office of General Services and arrangements could be made to lease the facilities to professional organizations which might make use of the building.

"The Federal Government has erected and maintained museums and other buildings to house and exhibit its collections of objects of artistic, historical, and scientific value for the education and enlightenment of the people of this country. It would not be out of line with this policy for the Government to erect and maintain in Washington a building for the performance and encouragement of music and for its dissemination to people throughout the country by means of radio and television."

If these recommendations should be carried out or if the Federal Government should appropriate funds for the support of opera, symphonic and other music, and ballet, as is done in some other countries, the Commission of Fine Arts would be happy to advise the Government on any questions affecting governmental operations in this field. It would not be necessary to enlarge the membership of the Commission in order to do this. The technical aspects of this problem could be handled either by a member of the Commission who would be especially qualified in the field of music, or by a special body which the Commission could establish for the purpose of advising it on this subject.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that, while there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee, no provision has been made in the President's budget for the new federal projects and programs mentioned in the report. The Bureau of the Budget has further advised that it recommends against enactment of the proposed legislation.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Omar Burleson, Chairman
Committee on House Administration
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
19 November 1956

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. M.

9:30 1. CONVENE, ROOM 7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

(a) Minutes of meeting 13 and 14 September 1956
(b) Minutes of meeting 10 October 1956

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 13 December 1956

4. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 10 OCTOBER MEETING. (See Appendix 1)

5. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 10 OCTOBER MEETING. (See Appendix 2)

10:00 6. DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION:

(a) Bridge/Tunnel at Constitution Avenue over Potomac River - Status.

(b) Executive Order - progress

(c) Proposed legislation on expanding the Commission of Fine Arts - draft of letter to Honorable Frank Thompson, Jr.

(d) Proposed legislation for a specific fund for decoration of public buildings - to be administered by Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration.

(e) Landscaping 12th St. Hemicycle, Post Office Department (Mr. Elbert Peets)

(f) Discussion of situation created by lack of support by D. C. Commissioners on disapprovals of applications submitted.

(g) Printing of 16th Report of the Commission of Fine Arts.

(h) Smithsonian Institution, National Collection of Fine Arts. Discussion on how Commission of Fine Arts can assist the National Collection of Fine Arts to get a new building or separate quarters in an existing building.

(i) Zoning in the District of Columbia - Plan for revision completed and submitted to D. C. Commissioners by Harold Lewis, Zoning expert.

(j) Department of the Army - Public announcement of new crypts for Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean War at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

(k) Site of National Memorial Stadium.

(l) State Department Annex - Program for procurement of sculpture, painting, etc.

(m) Mr. Finley's interview with Mr. Harry Lindquist regarding Postage Stamp Designs.

12:00 N 7. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - Distinguished Public Service Medal ([illegible], Lt. Col. James S. Cook, Jr., Mr. Thomas H. Jones, sculptor, Heraldic Branch, Army Dept.)

P. M.

12:15 8. SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, NATIONAL AIR MUSEUM - Submission of Sculptor Bruce Moore's final design of base and lettering for statue of General William Mitchell (Mr. F. E. Gerber, Head Curator, National Air Museum; Mr. T. M. Beggs, Director, National Collection of Fine Arts; Mr. Bruce Moore)

12:30 9. GIFT OF PEOPLE OF GERMANY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES - Examination of Rawlins Park as possible site for bronze statue, "Laboring Youth" by Hermann Blumenthal.

1:00 Lunch in Secretary's dining room

2:00 10. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Interchange at 2nd St. on Southwest Highway, architectural features. (Mr. Gerard I. Sawyer, Chief, Office of Planning, Design & Engineering; Mr. [illegible], of Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson)
Livingston, Mr Harbeson

3:00 11. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSION (informal) - Proposed building for Peoples Life Insurance Co. at 25th St. & New Hampshire Ave., NW (Mr. George N. Pettigord, Jr., architect, will present model of final design) *
Mr Manogue & Co

3:30 12. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUDITORIUM COMMISSION - Location of proposed Auditorium

4:00 13. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE SUBMISSIONS (formal) (See Appendix 3)

4:50 14. DISCUSSION - Continuation of any items postponed from Item 6

Adjourn

* Mr. — Pres. of Peoples Life Ins. Co.

OUTLINE STATEMENT
Drafted by
Mr. Louis A. Simon
18 November 1955

1. Public Law 808, 81st Congress creates a District known as Old Georgetown, and defines its boundaries.

2. Within these boundaries the law seeks to preserve the type of architecture used in the National Capital in its initial years.

3. The law names the Commission of Fine Arts as the qualified agency to decide and report to the District Commissioners whether the exterior design for a building proposed for Old Georgetown area meets the requirements of the law; and to recommend what changes if any are "necessary and desirable" to preserve the historic value of the Old Georgetown district.

4. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized by Law 808 to take such actions as in their judgement "are right and proper."

5. In the case of the Storage Garage for the Golden Commissary Corp'n., the Commission of Fine Arts reported to the D. C. Commissioners that a building erected from the drawings submitted by the owners in this case will present an appearance that is incompatible with the criteria, as to design and materials, imposed by Public Law 808, 81st Congress.

6. The Commission of Fine Arts further stated that, if the applicant desires to submit a restudy of the architectural design of this building, with attention to the fenestration and to scale, using building materials customarily employed during the period covered by the Act, it would be glad to consider the drawings and to give a prompt decision in the matter. To this letter, no reply has been received.

7. In order that the record may be completed, a statement is requested in regard to the action of the Commissioners in this and in any future cases in which applicants for building-permits appeal to the Commissioners to overrule the Commission of Fine Arts, in matters relating to architectural design.